

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
March 16, 2011

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:34 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, Greg Torres and Carlton Zentner were present. Scott Zimmerman arrived at 8:37 a.m. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Nancy Lannert, LWCD; Dennis Vollmer, NRCS, and Craig Ficenec were also in attendance.

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Review of the March Agenda:

The March agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Administration added "future meeting schedule" to item #16 after agenda was sent to LWCC, but prior to publication.

5. Review and Approval of the December and February Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the December 2010 and February 2011 meeting minutes as written, Torres seconded. Motion carried, 5/0.

6. Citizens Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

7. Town & Country Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. (RC&D) – Craig Ficenec

Craig Ficenec stated that due to budget cuts, his position may be eliminated. The RC&D will still exist. Recently new board members have joined the RC&D. He requested that a survey be completed by a representative of the Jefferson County LWCC. Zentner and Christensen will both complete the survey.

Selection of the LWCC representative for the RC&D will be placed on the next LWCC agenda. Ficenec will send Watkins the dates for the upcoming RC&D so that these can be provided at the next LWCC meeting.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. He will email a copy of the report to Klotz after the meeting. She will provide copies to the LWCC upon receipt. Work has been ongoing with the EQIP, CSP, CRP and WRP programs. There is a general CRP signup ending on April 15, 2011.

9. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Dues

Watkins stated that at the September 2010 LWCC meeting the committee approved the payment of \$1400 for 2011 WLWCA dues, with the understanding that any substantial dues increase be brought back before the committee. The invoice submitted by WLWCA requested \$1603.22 for the 2011 dues.

Burow moved and Christensen seconded to send the budget allocated \$1400.00 WLWCA membership dues, and inform WLWCA that this is the maximum that Jefferson County will pay. Motion carried, 3/2, Zentner and Torres cast the dissenting votes.

Watkins will call WLWCA and explain the LWCC position.

10. Working Lands Initiative Program Update

Nancy Lannert stated that currently there are 973 landowners enrolled in Jefferson County. To date, 562 or 58% have sent in their annual certification. 411 or 42% are still outstanding.

The Department has processed 10 Conservation Compliance Certifications. Of these four were new participants, three purchased additional land that needed to be certified as in compliance and three did not take the tax credit for 2009 but wanted to do so for the 2010 tax year. Two landowners have requested Conservation Compliance Certificates but we have not finalized all the paperwork yet.

Status Reviews for 2011

The Department will be reviewing landowners in four townships: Sumner, Koshkonong, Jefferson and Oakland. A total of 282 landowners are scheduled for Status Review.

11. Notice of Non-Compliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Anfang Properties c/o Thomas Anfang, Harold F Marsch Trust, Gary N Lunde and Carlton and Mary Zentner request to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program. These Voluntary Notices of Non-participation were entered into due to the landowners not taking the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit.

Torres moved and Zimmerman seconded to approve Anfang Properties c/o Thomas Anfang, Harold F Marsch Trust, Gary N Lunde and Carlton and Mary Zentner's Voluntary Notices of Non-participation which will allow them to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program database. Motion carried 5/0.

12. Final Tally for the 2010 Wisconsin Deer Donation Program

Watkins stated that 91 deer were donated in the 2010 Wisconsin Deer Donation Program. River's Edge processed 69 deer and Pernat Meats processed 22. A total of 1053 deer have been donated in Jefferson County since the program's inception.

13. Final Cost Update for Repairing Tile at the County Farm

Watkins stated that the total cost for repairing the tile at the County Farm was \$270.00. There may be a plugged tile line on the farm that will have to be looked at in the spring.

14. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report

Watkins stated that expenditures are in line with budget with the exception of the new vehicles. The two vehicles that have been ordered for the LWCD will be \$13,000 below the budgeted amount.

15. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence at this time.

16. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting and possible agenda items:

The future meeting schedule provided by Administration was accepted, with the change of the November 26 meeting becoming the November 16 meeting.

It was decided by the members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report and RC&D LWCC representative selection.

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Zentner and seconded by Torres at 9:43 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.